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Click link on bottom left corner to view entire newsletter.]

Greetings!



Welcome to the Blue Wall Weekly, your source for what's going on outside along the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and adventures along the Blue Wall by sending them to the email address at the bottom of the page, and we'll do our best to make you (locally) famous!

Goldenrod

It's early autumn. This is the season when goldenrod blooms. Why, we wonder, does this beauty not grace our own garden, realizing not that throughout summer we have willfully removed it, or poisoned it with chemical spray, deeming it a weed not

worthy of the wait. We (or our paid gardeners) discard goldenrod to make room for more favored species: Black-eyed Susans and purple coneflowers, which are, by now, quite finished, bloom-wise. But goldenrod, that tough native often considered too “common” for our pampered, high-dollar perennial gardens, takes quiet revenge by casting its golden spell against the edge of every sun-soaked country road. ~K



**Solidago species
a.k.a. goldenrod,
with
pollinators galore!**

SPECIAL EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Full Moon Rising Tour - Hunters
Moon [Book Now!](#)
October 6: 5:30-7:30 PM

Guided Kayak Tours! [Book Now!](#)
October 19: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Cool Season Tours Begin Oct. 1

**[PRIVATE TOURS
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE](#)**

**CALL (864) 280-5501
or
[BOOK ONLINE](#)**

WEEKLY EVENTS WITH JOCASSEE LAKE TOURS

Jocassee Lake Tours [Book Now!](#)
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun:
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
**FREE TUESDAYS at Devils Fork
State Park!**

Friday Private Tours [Book Now!](#)
Every Friday: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Saturday Sunset Tours [Book Now!](#)
Times vary

Sunday Afternoon Tours
[Book Now!](#)
2:30-5:30 PM



The expressions are priceless!

THIS WEEK ON LAKE JOCASSEE OCTOBER 6, 2025

“What did you learn today?” At the beginning of our Wild Child adventure, I tell my students to be prepared to answer this question. None of us really know what the response will be. A lot can happen during a few hours in the Jocassee Gorges. At the beginning of our exploration, I tell them facts. So many facts. I am certain that my infectious enthusiasm and confident exposition will fill their heads with at least some of those facts. And then I get off the boat and into the wild. We feel the tickling sensation of millipede feet crawling over our hands, and the fuzziness of soft moss on the river rocks. We taste the tartness of a sourwood leaf, and the sweetness of a ripe muscadine. We hold a chunk of saprolitic rock and break it apart. We feel the power of the Thompson River as we swim into the current below a chilly cascade. We (well, some of us!) feel the smooth muscular skin of a shiny black rat snake. We hear the call of the belted kingfisher and we see a bald eagle circle down and land in a tall pine. We experience so many reasons to love this wild place, and yet I have the nerve to ask them, “What did you learn today?”

~Steve Lewis, JLT Guide and JWC Instructor

OUTDOOR EVENTS THIS WEEK, OCTOBER 6, 2025

STATE PARK EVENTS

Table Rock State Park

October 11: 2:00-6:00 PM

Music on the Mountain

Enjoy traditional Bluegrass music as local musicians gather at Table Rock to keep this inspirational talent alive. Visitors are invited to bring their acoustic instruments and join in a jam session or simply sit back to enjoy the music with the lake and mountains as a beautiful backdrop.

NEW EVENTS COMING IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

STATE PARK EVENTS

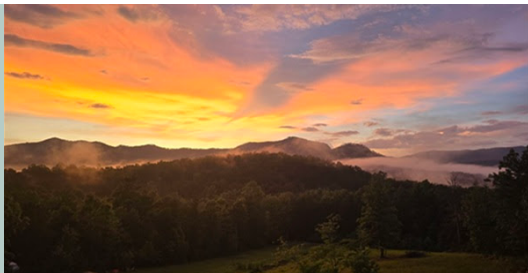


Table Rock photo by Francis Mills

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

SCUMS

October 6: 6:30 PM

DNA: The Secret History of Mushrooms w/ Danny Miler

Danny Miler is the Education Chair for the Puget Sound Mycological Society, helping to design and teach the curriculum for the club's mycology classes. He has a big interest in taxonomy and figuring out where these mushrooms fit into the fungal tree of life.

Conserving Carolina

October 7: 9:00-11:00 AM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

If you enjoy gardening and want to help create a beautiful, welcoming space for pollinators and people alike, come join us!

SCNPS

October 8: 12:00 AM-11:55 PM

Upstate Fall 2025 Online Native Plant Sale - Member and Volunteer Early Access

This is an online-only sale, do not come to the nursery to shop. Choose from one of the largest selections of native plants in the region — nearly 200 species, 4,000+ plants — all available to order online and pick up in Greenville.

Oconee Station State Historic Site

October 16: 4:00-5:00 PM

Tales from the American Pen

Oconee State Park

October 18: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

CCC History Stroll

Oconee Station State Historic Site

October 18: 7:00-8:30 PM

Legends, Lore & S'mores

Oconee Station State Historic Site

October 21: 4:00-5:00 PM

Hands-on History

Table Rock State Park

October 24: 6:15-7:45 PM

Bat Watch

Table Rock State Park

November 1: 2:45-9:45 AM

Sunrise Hike-Bald Knob

Oconee Station State Historic Site

November 1: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

First Day Hike

Oconee State Park

November 1: 10:30-11:30 AM

Art in Nature

OTHER OUTDOOR EVENTS

Conserving Carolina

October 14, 21 & 28: 9:00-11:00 AM

Pollinator Paradise Partners

Conserving Carolina

October 14: 2:00-3:30 PM

Saluda Library Speaker Series: Update from the Green Riverkeeper with MountainTrue

Sierra Club SC

October 14: 6:30-8:30 PM

Sierra Club SC

October 9: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Table Rock State Park Lakeside Trail Hike and Exploration

The Lakeside trail (1.9-mile loop) is marked with purple blazes and offers a bit of history, great views of the mountain, and a family friendly alternative to hiking up the steeper mountain trails.

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 9: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club - Elementary School

This is an exclusive opportunity to experience hands-on exploration, investigation and discovery in ways unavailable to those just visiting the Preserve.

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 9: 4:00-5:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club - Middle School

We want to grow a love of nature in your student, and train young naturalists in a casual, fun-oriented environment.

SCNPS

October 9-11: 8:00 AM-6:00 PM

Upstate Fall 2025 Online Native Plant Sale

This is an online-only sale, do not come to the nursery to shop.

Choose from one of the largest selections of native plants in the region — nearly 200 species, 4,000+ plants — all available to order online and pick up in Greenville.

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 11: 8:00-10:00 AM

Birding 101: Birds of Prey

Sierra Upstate Fall 2025 Social

Conserving Carolina

October 15: 10:00 AM-11:30 PM

Etowah Library Speaker Series: Renewable Energy 101

Mushroom Mountain

October 16: 2:00-3:30 PM

Mushroom Mountain

SCNPS

October 17-19: 7:00 PM-4:00 PM

2025 SCNPS Statewide Symposium

GCBC

October 18: 8:00-10:30 AM (Shorter Walk)

October 18: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM (Longer Walk)

Conestee Nature Preserve

Oconee History Museum

October 18: 2:00-3:00 PM

Walhalla Walking Tour

Highlands Biological Foundation

October 18: 2:00-3:30 PM

Black Bear Bonanza

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 23: 3:00-4:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club - Elementary School

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 23: 4:00-5:30 PM

Nature Discovery After School Club - Middle School

Palmetto Trail

October 23: 6:00 PM

Upstate Trail Talks

Oconee History Museum

October 24: 7:00 PM

This event is great for those who have never put on a pair of binoculars or for those just getting started with their birding journey.

GNHA

October 11: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Caesars Head State Park

We will hike the Frank Coggins Trail, Coldspring Connector Trail, Coldspring Branch Trail, Tom Miller Trail, and Silver Steps Trail until we reach Jones Gap SP and then back.

GNHA

October 11: 9:30 AM-1:30 PM

Table Rock State Park - The Stool

This hike starts beside the nature center and goes through woods, across streams, and UP new trail to the top of Stool Mountain (lower than the Table) where we'll enjoy views, see the lasting effects of Helene, the recent Spring fire and marvel at the forest's ability to recover.

Hagood Mill Historic Site

October 11: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Native American Plant Medicine Class

Join us for a hands-on workshop led by herbalist and educator Donna MotherHerb, exploring the powerful traditions of Native American healing plants.

Conestee Nature Preserve

October 11: 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Tree ID 101

Join one of our staff educators on a beginner course in tree identification.

Upstate Forever

Intriguing Tales of Crime & Punishment

Hagood Mill Historic Site

October 24-25: 6:00 PM-6:00 PM

3rd Annual Pickens Appalachian Folk Festival

GNHA

October 25: 9:00-11:00 AM

Thompson River via Foothills Trail

Mushroom Mountain

October 25: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

MycoBlitz

Hagood Mill Historic Site

October 25: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Native American Plant Medicine Class

NCNPS Oconee Bell Chapter

October 28: 5:30 PM

Nature Nights by the Pond

Conserving Carolina

October 28: 6:00-7:30 PM

Landrum Library Speaker Series: Owls of the Carolinas

GNHA

November 1: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Walhalla Fish Hatchery to Ellicott Rock- Ron Anderson

Palmetto Trail

November 1-2: 11: AM-6:00 PM

Everything Outdoor Fest

SC Botanical Garden Events

October 15: 8:30-9:30 AM

Winged Wednesdays

October 16 & 30: 4:30-6:00 PM

SCBG Junior Naturalists, Fall 2025

October 12: 2:00-5:00 PM

Annual Meeting

Join UF staff, BoD's, and supporters as we celebrate the past year's conservation successes at Elf Leaf Farm, a family-owned lavender farm



Hagood Mill Photo

SC Botanical Garden Events

October 11: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Fall Herbaceous Plant Identification, SCNP Core Class

Join Trent Miller, former Natural Heritage Trail Manager, to explore the many habitats along the Natural Heritage Trail. Learn how to use a key to help with plant identification.



Conoclinium coelestinum Wild
ageratum

October 17: 10:00-11:00 AM

Friday Garden Forays

October 17: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

SCBG Nature Journaling Club

October 24: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Wetland Ecology, SCNP Elective

October 25: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Tree Identification, SCNP Core Class

October 25: 1:00-4:00 PM

Nature Center Open House: Nature's Clean-up Crew

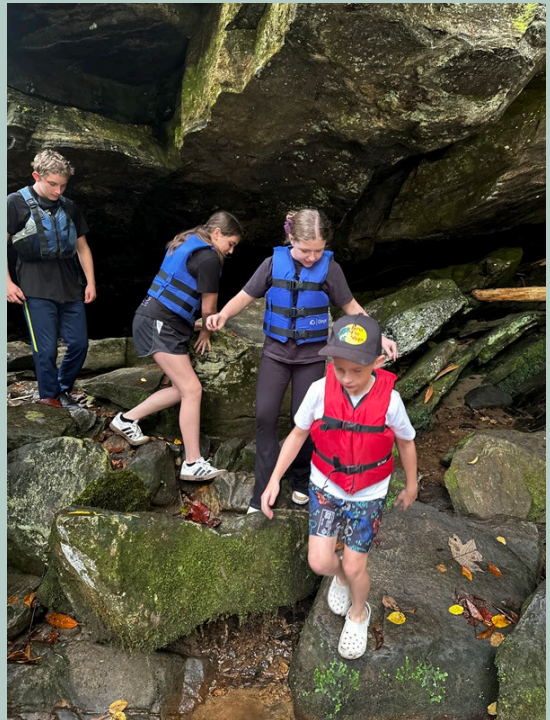


Photo by Steve Lewis

The Jocassee Wild Child fundraiser is 5.77% of the way to matching the \$75,000 grant challenge.

THANK YOU to all who donated this past week!

DONATE TODAY!

Or mail to:

Jocassee Wild Outdoor Education
PO Box 582
Salem, SC 29676

Current conditions at Lake
Jocassee via Devils Fork State
Park Webcam
Sponsored by
Friends of Jocassee



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How about a tee shirt featuring
the Jocassee Wild Child mascot,
Odyssey? Order yours here!

**SPONSOR A JOCASSEE WILD
CHILD TODAY!**



DID YOU KNOW?

According to SciTechDaily, interest in insect decline has grown rapidly since a groundbreaking 2017 study reported a staggering 75% drop in insect populations over less than 30 years.
In 2024, the US spent an estimated \$4.6 billion on pesticides.

ABOUT THE BLUE WALL

Spanning three states (North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia) and encompassing 859,000 acres, the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment, known as the 'Blue Wall' by Native Americans, contains some of the

highest natural diversity of rare plants and animals found anywhere in the world.



www.JocasseeLakeTours.com

info@jocassee-laketours.com

Thanks to Sheryl White for compiling the Blue Wall Weekly,
and to all JLT GUIDES for photos and continuous inspiration!

Jocassee Lake Tours Depart from the Main Dock
at Devils Fork State Park, 528 Jocassee Lake Road

**PLEASE CALL 864-280-5501 AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE TO
RESERVE YOUR SEATS!**

SUPPORT OUR JOCASSEE PARTNERS!



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